

Rule-Based Summarizing

This strategy provides students with a specific set of rules for summarizing a text. The rules follow the cognitive processes involved in summarizing, deleting, substituting, and keeping.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Select a passage for students to read.

Lesson Plan:

1. Present the steps in the Rule-Based Summarizing Strategy:
 - Delete trivial material that is unnecessary to understanding.
 - Delete redundant material.
 - Substitute super-ordinate ideas for lists (e.g. farm animals for chicken, cows, and pigs).
2. Model the process for students using a “Think Aloud” with a sample passage.
3. Assign a text for students to summarize.
4. Have students first read the text, then apply the rules of summarizing.
5. After applying the rules, ask the students to rewrite their summary.
6. Have students read their summary and compare it to the text.
7. Have students reflect upon the summary’s accuracy, completeness, clarity, and coherence.
8. Have students pair up and compare summaries. How are they alike? How are they different? What rules in the Rule-Based Summarizing Strategy did each student apply?

Adapted from a workshop conducted by Daniel R. Moirao for the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System in April, 2006